



OPERATION ACTION UP
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January 30, 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Commission Secretary, Ms. Marlene H Dortch
445 12th Street SW
CY-B402
Washington DC 20554

RE: Proceeding 03-16

Dear Secretary Salas and Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of Operation Action U.P., a private-sector economic development organization that serves all 15 Upper Peninsula counties. Our mission is to bring together industrial corporations, financial institutions, utilities, institutions of higher learning, businesses and concerned citizens in a coalition that will work to create a favorable economic climate and a strong employment base for Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Given the rural nature and vast geography of the Upper Peninsula, communication is vitally important to our business community. As such, our board of directors recently voted to support SBC Ameritech's entry into Michigan's long distance market. Operation Action U.P. understands the importance of having many competitive telecom choices to meet the growing and diverse needs of our industrial base.

We believe that SBC's entry into the long distance market can create cost savings for Upper Peninsula businesses by providing increased choice and competition. This is evidenced by Michigan's highly competitive local telephone market, which has lead to increased choice of providers and rate plans.

We urge the Federal Communications Commission to recommend that Michigan join the many states already enjoying full competition for long distance services. We also urge the Federal Communications Commission to approve SBC's application so that additional telecommunication options and cost benefits can be realized.

Respectfully,

Dave Molinare
Co-Chairman

John Marshall
Co-Chairman